

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion.

Entry of this response is requested, as the response places the application in clear condition for allowance or alternatively places the claims in better form for appeal. Specifically, rejected claims are canceled, objected to claims are rewritten in accordance with an indication of allowable subject matter, and claims are amended to recite allowable subject matter.

Claims 15, 17, 19, 21, 23-26, 28, 30, 32, 34, and 36-39 are pending in the application. Claims 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, and 40-43 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 15, 19, 23-26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 37, and 39 are amended.

Initially, Applicants express thanks for the Examiner's indication that Claims 17 and 21 are allowed.

Applicants express further thanks for the Examiner's indication that Claims 15, 19, 28, 30, 32, 34, and 36-39 recite allowable subject matter, such that the objected to claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, Claims 15, 19, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 37, and 39 are rewritten. Claim 38 depends from Claim 37. Therefore, in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, the allowance of Claims 15, 19, 28, 30, 32, 34, and 36-39 is requested.

Claims 23-26 are also amended to recite features similar to those recited in allowed and allowable Claims 15, 17, 19, and 21, respectively. Therefore, the allowance of Claims 23-26 is requested.

In the Office Action Claims 14, 22, 23, 27, 35, and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kao in view of Jaffray and Silverbrook; Claims 16, 22, 24, 29, 35, and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asaida in

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view of Jaffray and Silverbrook; and Claims 18, 20, 22, 25, 26, 31, 33, 35, 42, and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furukawa in view of Silverbrook. It is submitted that the rejections of Claims 23-26 are overcome for the above discussed reasons, and that the remaining rejections of the claims are mooted by the cancellation of the rejected claims.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 15, 17, 19, 21, 23-26, 28, 30, 32, 34, and 36-39 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

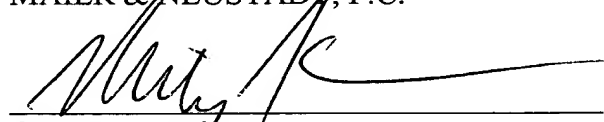
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